

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder integrally formed therein; and

a radiopaque marker made from a material having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers which define a substantially V-shaped opening and the radiopaque marker includes a substantially V-shaped mounting region which fits within the V-shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers, the projecting fingers applying a force on the V-shaped mounting region which holds the radiopaque marker on the marker holder.

2. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein further including a weld attaching the radiopaque marker is attached to the projecting fingers of the marker holder by a heat-weld.

3. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the projecting fingers are connected at a notched region which allows the projecting fingers to move laterally to accept the radiopaque marker.

4. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 3, wherein further including a weld that attaches the radiopaque marker and to the projecting fingers are bonded together by a heat weld.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers defines a particular first angle when the pair of projecting fingers are unattached to the marker and the V-shaped mounting region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 3, wherein the mounting region of the radiopaque marker is larger than the opening defined by the projecting fingers.

8. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a superelastic alloy having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder; and

a radiopaque marker made from a nickel-titanium alloy including a ternary element which attains a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the superelastic alloy from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers which define a substantially V-shaped opening and the radiopaque marker includes a substantially V-shaped mounting region that fits within the V-shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers, the projecting fingers applying a force on the V-shaped mounting region which holds the radiopaque marker on the marker holder.

9. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the ternary element is selected from the group of elements consisting of iridium, platinum, gold, rhenium, tungsten, palladium, rhodium, tantalum, silver, ruthenium, and hafnium.

10. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the ternary element is platinum and the atomic percent of platinum is greater than or equal to 2.5 and less than or equal to 15.

11. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the superelastic alloy is nickel-titanium alloy.

12. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the structural body includes a plurality of marker holders integrally formed with the structural body and the medical device includes a plurality of radiopaque markers attachable to the marker holders.

13. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the radiopaque marker is attached to the marker holder by melting a portion of the radiopaque marker and/or the marker holder.

14. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 8, ~~wherein further including a weld which attaches the radiopaque marker is attached to the marker holder by a heat weld.~~

15. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the structural body is a stent.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 15, ~~wherein further including a welt which attaches the radiopaque marker is attached to the projecting fingers of the marker holder by a heat weld.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the projecting fingers are connected at a notched region which allows the projecting fingers to move laterally to accept the radiopaque marker.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers defines a particular first angle when the projecting fingers are unattached to the radiopaque marker and the V-shaped region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening.

22-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 4, wherein the mounting region of the radiopaque marker which fits within the opening defined by the projecting fingers of the marker holder is slightly larger than the opening.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A method for making an implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

providing a structural body made from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder including a pair of projecting fingers that can move laterally relative to each other, the projecting fingers defining an opening therebetween;

providing a radiopaque marker having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material making up the

structural body, the radiopaque marker including a mounting region that is larger than the opening defined by the projecting fingers; and

placing the mounting region of the radiopaque marker in contact with the projecting fingers of a marker holder to increase the size of the opening created by the projecting fingers.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further including:
welding the radiopaque marker to the marker holder.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further including:
heat welding the radiopaque marker and the marker holder together.
37. (Previously Presented) A method for making an implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

providing a structural body from a biocompatible material, the structural body including at least one marker holder including a pair of projecting fingers that can move laterally relative to each other, the projecting fingers defining an substantially V-shaped opening therebetween;

providing a radiopaque marker having greater radiopacity than the biocompatible material making up the structural body, the radiopaque marker including a substantially V-shaped mounting region; and

placing the mounting region of the radiopaque marker in contact with the projecting fingers of a marker holder.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein:
the V-shaped mounting region of the radiopaque marker is larger than the V-shaped opening of the marker holder.
39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein:
the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers has a particular angle when the projecting fingers are unattached to the radiopaque marker and the V-shaped region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening and causes the projecting fingers to move laterally away from each other when the radiopaque marker is placed within the V-shaped opening.
40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further including:
heat welding the radiopaque marker and the marker holder together.
41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further including:
welding the radiopaque marker to the marker holder.
42. (New) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:
a structural body formed from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder integrally formed therein; and
a radiopaque marker made from a material having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers extending away from the structural body to form an opening having a first

shape, the radiopaque marker includes a mounting region having substantially the same shape as the first shape of the opening formed by the projecting fingers, the mounting region including side edges adapted to contact the projecting fingers to cause the fingers to move outwards to move the opening into a second, expanded shape.